

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:MFIDELMAN

APPROVED BY NEA/INS:DKUX

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS STATE 184960

FOR AMBASSADOR MAYTAG FROM DENNIS KUX

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: UNCLASSIFIED POUCH DELIVERY

REF: KATHMANDU 3141 (NOTAL)

1. OUR JULY EXPERIMENT WITH THE KATHMANDU UNCLASSIFIED POUCH SHOWED A TWO-WEEK DELIVERY TIME. THE THEORETICAL SCHEDULE SHOWS MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND FRIDAY DEPARTURES FROM THE DEPARTMENT, WITH RESPECTIVE ARRIVALS ON FRIDAY, MONDAY, AND TUESDAY. THE UNCLASSIFIED POUCH GOES THROUGH BANGKOK, RATHER THAN NEW DELHI. THIS PRACTICE ACCORDS WITH KATHMANDU 1362, DATED 4/5/74, WHICH REQUESTED THE SWITCH FROM NEW DELHI AS TRANSFER POINT TO BANGKOK. THE POUCH ROOM DOES NOT THINK THAT RETURNING TO SERVICE THROUGH NEW DELHI WOULD BE ANY PANACEA, BUT WILL CARRY OUT ANY INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM POST. PERSONALLY, I WOULD THINK A DELHI TRANSFER POINT WOULD BE BETTER FOR UNCLASSIFIED MESSAGES, BUT JIM FALZONE AND WILDS IN DELHI UNCLASSIFIED

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SHOULD BE THE EXPERTS ON THIS.

2. NEA/INS WAS INFORMED THAT OUR
EXPERIMENTAL LETTER DELIVERED TO POUCH ROOM AT COB THURSDAY

CAUGHT NEITHER THE FRIDAY CLOSING NOR THE MONDAY CLOSING,
BUT ENDED UP IN THE WEDNESDAY POUCH, THUS ACCOUNTING FOR
MOST OF THE UNEXPECTED DELAY.

3. POUCH ROOM HAS TWO INTERNAL SORTING SYSTEMS, MACHINE
AND BY HAND. THE MACHINE SORTER IS SLOW, DELAYING PRO-
CESSING OF LETTER FOR AS MUCH AS 48 HOURS (NOTHING LIKE
A LITTLE MACHINERY TO CLOG UP THE WORKS). THIS TIES UP
LETTERS ORIGINATING FROM OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT AS WELL
AS UNREGISTERED LETTERS ORIGINATING INSIDE. REGISTERED
LETTERS ARE HAND-PROCESSED, WHICH ALSO TAKES TIME.
THE POUCH ROOM SUGGESTED OUR REQUESTING THAT LETTERS OF
URGENT NATURE BE HAND-CARRIED TO KATHMANDU BOX, WHICH
SHOULD ALLOW US TO CATCH EARLIEST POSSIBLE POUCH CLOSING.
THIS WE WILL DO.

4. THEORETICALLY, MAIL ORIGINATING FROM OUTSIDE DEPART-
MENT SHOULD ARRIVE IN 8 TO 14 DAYS. I DO NOT KNOW IF
COMMERCIAL SERVICE TO KATHMANDU IS SUPERIOR TO THIS OR
MORE RELIABLE. POUCH ROOM DISCOUNTS POSSIBILITY OF ANY
LETTER GOING BY SURFACE IF IT ARRIVES IN THE DEPARTMENT
CORRECTLY ADDRESSED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE184960
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MFIDELMAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760288-0523
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760720/aaaaarre.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 76 KATHMANDU 3141
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <27 DEC 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNCLASSIFIED POUCH DELIVERY
TAGS: OGEN
To: KATHMANDU
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006